Memories with Me Forever

The Past

During your first year of college it can be hard being away from your loved ones for the first time. The day I moved out my dad hugged me, tears running down my face, and I did not want to let go. My dad has done nothing but try his best for my sisters and I, being there whenever one of us needs him. Being the youngest sister, I was the last to leave which meant he was going to be alone, with my sisters and me all over two hours away. I was scared, excited, sad, and guilty as I stood there saying goodbye. My dad laughed as he looked at the tears glistening on my cheeks on this bright and sunny day. At first I was mad he laughed but he then looked at me and said, "Don’t be sad, this is the time for you to be you. Always remember I want you to never be what me or anyone else want you to be, only what you want to be." Those words instantly filled me with only good feelings about leaving to be on my own for the first time. He made me realize that this would not be just about being on my own but finding doing so to find myself.

The Present

My mother's side of the family is about one hundred percent Irish, giving my grandmother the idea of getting my two sisters and I each a Celtic anklet. It has become the most important piece of jewelry in college right now, reminding me of my sisters every time I look at it. Anytime I feel low or want to just quit, I talk to one of them and it instantly makes me feel better. They know exactly what I'm going through, they're going through it too. I always know to call them because they will both say, "it's going to be hard and that won't change but you have me and that won't change either." College is tough right now, finding the right friends and balancing your life is the hardest part about it. Keeping my sisters close to me has been vital to starting my college career, having two constants in my life right now is the best thing for me. If I did not have them I honestly do not know if I would still be in school. A lot has happened back home this year and I haven't been my best self but having then remind me that I can be. They are both my rocks and I could never ask for more caring sisters. This anklet connects us all and reminds us that we may win and lose many things but we have each other right now, which is what really counts.

The Future

I walk up to the stage, the sun shining, birds chirping, and receive my master's degree. It feels great to be the last of my sister to strive for more just as they did. We are the first in our family to graduate not only from college but with a master's degree. It feels great knowing that not only I accomplished this but my sisters as well. We all talked about how we were going to go further than just a bachelor's degree and now we have actually done it. I can't imagine a better day with my sisters and dad cheering insanely loud from the bleachers. Not only are they proud but my entire family is proud as they have told my sisters and I in loud, cheerful voicemails and letters. It feels amazing to have pursued and attained my dream while striving to attain even more of it by being what I want to be. I have accomplished the hardest and biggest part of my dream, never stopping me to accomplish even more of it. I am so proud if not only myself but of my sisters because it is as if we did it together. We all promised we would be there for each other and never turn our backs on one another, well here we are, still looking out for each other.

The Connection

Taking all these memories in account, one can clearly see they all have to do with my immediate family. My dad and sisters have done everything they can for me just as I have tried my best to do the same for them. Friends will always come and go but your family never changes. I am so proud of who my family is and would not change a single thing about them, not even my sister Kaitlyn's cranky mornings. I can clearly see the connection between all these moments, the significance they have in my life. Although many will say you did this all on your own, I disagree but I'm not saying no one can. I know that if I had done this without them I never would have gotten as far as I have. My dad and sisters are the most important people in my life and have obviously helped me get through a lot, never leaving my side. We all take our families for granted and do not always realize how important they are. These are the people that will be there through your cranky and mean days to your happy and giggly days with the sun shining or the clouds dark and gloomy. If I ever need something or someone these are the people in my life I can turn to no matter what and I am forever grateful for that. 